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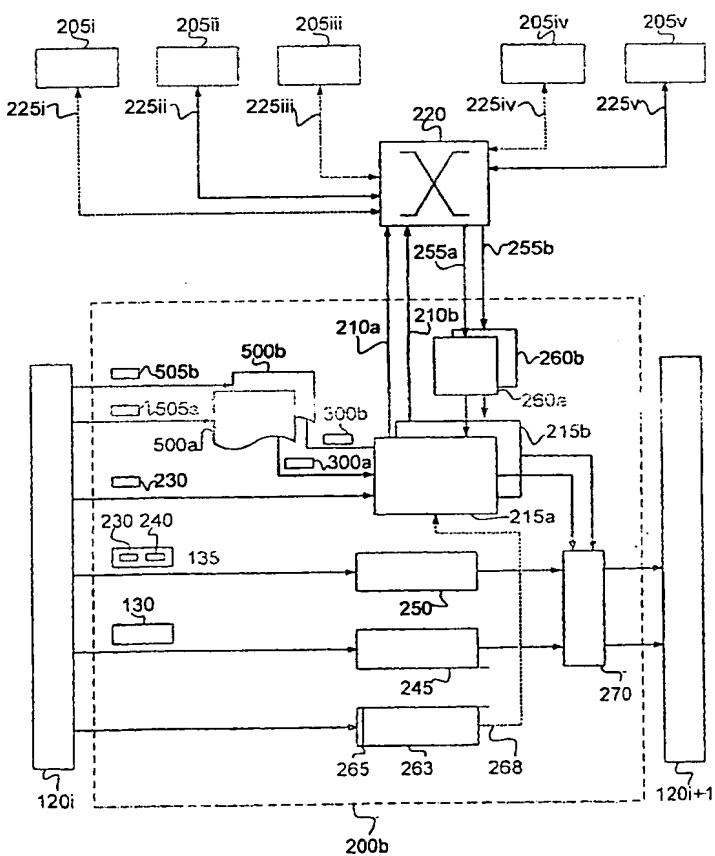
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PIPELINED PROCESSING OF DATA PACKETS



(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for pipelined processing of data packets. A pipeline in a processor comprises an access point providing simultaneous access to one or more devices, said devices mainly for data processing operations not provided by the pipeline. The access point comprises at least one FIFO store for storing data entering the access point, a response FIFO store for storing responses received from the device(s), and a synchronisation mechanism adapted to synchronise the fetching of the first entry in the FIFO store(s) and the first entry in the response FIFO store. The synchronisation mechanism could advantageously be a fixed time delay mechanism. When the fixed time initiated by the fixed time delay mechanism has elapsed, the first response in the response FIFO store is merged into the data stored in the first entry in the FIFO store(s) for storing data entering the access point.

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